

Private Journal

July 8, 1881

To July 24 '81

St. Michaels Alaska  
to Icy Cape

Emerson



Edw. Nelson

Last bird skin 2056

" " egg 395

" Ethnology 7504

G.S. 52

OK



July 8th St. Michael  
Finished my work here  
by securing some photos  
of Ingalik. The weather  
has been extremely fine  
for the whole time of our stay  
here. Every one is busy  
at work on the  
new steamer "Yukon" for  
the A.C.Co. This is a stern  
wheel of 70 tons trans  
ported by the Yukon when finished

July 9th  
~~We are~~ The Corwin is  
about ready to leave. I made  
my address before noon  
and went on board. I  
am heartily glad to get away  
from St. M. for the A.C.Co. agent  
in charge does not show the usual  
cordiality for some reason or  
other. The cutter has  
a very large deck-load  
of Coal and I sent on my



did in the morning so  
we will have everything in  
readiness if we get a chance  
at Wrangel Land - My interpreter  
upon whom I had counted during  
the summer has refused to go  
at the last moment as the natives  
in the village have frightened  
him by predicting all manner of  
horrible things to befall the Corwin  
and all have solemnly warned  
him not to go and as a result  
in spite of my offering high  
pay and other good things he  
absolutely refused -

We took on water from the springs  
in the afternoon and about 7 pm  
headed for Cape Darby.

As we passed out a change in  
the wind obscured the whole  
coast line as in a thick fog  
by the smoke from the  
burning tundra 4 or 5 miles  
SW, of St. Michael - This

fire was set 5 or 6 days  
ago by some Ingaliks up the  
Canal and has burned ever  
since and now appears  
to be spreading rapidly &  
gives out great volumes of  
smoke which mellowed  
the outlines & tint of the  
landscape forming a very  
pretty scene as we  
passed on -

July 10th

Early this morning under sail  
& steam with a fresh  
wind we passed into the mouth  
of Golovina Bay and anchored  
a few miles inside the entrance  
under the shelter of the high  
hills on the western shore.  
The northern slopes of the hills  
on the opposite shore were  
still marked here and there  
with snow banks but everywhere  
the dark green patches of alders



straggling along down the  
hillside with the lighter  
green of grasses & flowers  
gave a pleasant appearance  
to the country much enhanced  
by a few straggling spruces visible  
on the shore land separating  
the outer & inner bays on the  
western shore. Hiding the  
hill tops ragged masses of  
clouds were driving over all  
day. The cutter was lowered  
with L. B. Reynolds in charge and  
started up the bay to examine a schooner  
anchored in the inner bay -  
I accompanied him - We  
had a fine sail of a couple of hours  
and passing through the narrow  
strait (across which extends a bar at  
2 fathoms) connecting the outer &  
inner bay we soon came up to & boarded  
the S. Chr. W. F. March with a party  
of prospectors on board. They  
are prospecting the country to the

N. and N.E. of the head of the Bay for  
galena, bearing silver, and say they  
have found ore paying 150 per ton  
but have not found whether it is  
in sufficient quantity yet to pay  
working. A Col. Williams of  
Oakland Cal. is leader of the party  
100 of whom are absent prospecting.  
They report Fish River which  
connects Port Clarence & Golovine  
Bay to be too shallow to admit a  
whale boat at its mouth -  
their mine they say is 3 days walk  
overland.

We had lunch on board and then  
turned back - going through the  
narrow channel we had squalls  
from every side alternating with  
calms. Often a squall from one side  
would scarcely die out before  
the sail would be driven over  
to the other side by an opposing  
squall. They also came from the bow  
and stern. Overhead the just at





Sledge Is., Sub. Force 77 3 miles July 7<sup>th</sup> 1881.



King Is. S. Force 1700 distant. July 1881.



this neck of water between the two  
bays the ragged fog clouds were  
torn into jagged fragmentary  
masses and twisted into a  
revolving mass about 100  
yds in diameter forming  
a striking phenomenon.  
The slight elevations of these  
clouds made the occurrence  
still more striking combined  
with the calm and irregular  
squalls on the surface of the  
water. We passed several  
native Summer-huts of  
drift wood along the shore  
and saw one *Emu*. On  
the schooner they told us  
that the natives had nearly all  
gone up the bay to its head  
fishing salmon. The salmon  
were running in the outer  
bay till a few days ago and  
beside the ordinary small  
kinds they caught salmon trout

and Chowichee (King Salmon)  
the latter quite numerous  
One brought on the schooner  
weighing 50 lbs.  
About 4 P.M. we got on  
board but the wind was blowing  
so hard that the Corwin lay at anchor  
all night.  
The birds seen today were  
Murrets, Pacific Eiders, Kittiwakes,  
Arctic Terns, One Red Phalarope seen out in  
the bay on our way back and  
several Whist Swallows were  
flying about. Also some *Columba*  
*pratincola*, Horned Grebes,  
Violet-green Cormorants, *Glaucous*  
gulls and *Puffins* but  
on board the vessel I saw  
a skin of a *Charadrius fulvus*  
(Arctic type) - The last sound  
at night was the sullen crash  
of wind & wave about the vessel  
as she surged at her anchor



Dr. Blair had a ramble  
 on shore today and found the  
 rock to consist mainly of mica  
 slate with quartz veins -  
 He says it resembles very  
 closely the rocks <sup>some of</sup> the gold bearing  
 region of California. He saw  
 or found maritime Pea, a  
 Spiraea, a Blue Gentian,  
 an Epilobium, *Myrtensia*  
*Pedicularis* (yellow)  
 2 Cranberries, Rubus of  
 two species, *Erigeron*, a  
 dwarf violet, 3 Coriaces  
 1 *Elymus*, 1 *Agrostis*, *Kalmia*  
~~in the~~ numbered the most  
 conspicuous flowering plants.  
 Alders were greenish flowering  
 willows were doing the same.  
 The cranberries -  
 Larkspur, Iris, Jacob's Ladder, and  
*Archangelica* - A fern and a  
 Saxifrage with the spruce.  
 The preceding list includes the most

July 11<sup>th</sup>  
 At last we were under way  
 and stood along the coast  
 until Cape Nome in the  
 afternoon when we sighted a  
 scho. to the westward and made  
 chase. After a couple of hours  
 we came up and found she  
 was the "Czar" of the W. F. I. Co. which  
 we had left at anchor at  
 St. George. A SW. wind had brought  
 her up here. Putting some letters  
 on her from the "march" we  
 stood off for Sledge Is. which  
 had been in sight for some  
 hours. The weather slowly  
 cleared up at this time from  
 the misty ~~grey~~ SW. rain fog  
 which had prevailed all day  
 and the coast stood out  
 rich green with banks of  
 snow here and there up the  
 hillsides with the higher  
 mountains farther inland



capped and mantled with  
snow or here and there a  
white cap of fog just about  
the peak. Adm. Rogers  
observed the coast and  
sledge Is. It which latter place  
we arrived at 9 PM. and  
laid just off the village on the  
side for a few minutes  
but ~~found~~ could see only 3 or  
4 people and a single old  
umiak all the natives here  
at present as the others are  
as usual at this season on  
the mainland fishing Salmon.  
A number of Walrus hides  
stretched upon air frames among  
the houses formed the most  
conspicuous objects to be seen  
And the island in the distance  
looked dead enough with  
the only light in the evening  
beacons light in which filled  
the air about the village


point of the rugged coast  
No one coming off we passed  
on around the island and  
headed for King Is. and  
as we stood away from the point  
side I made the rough sketch  
on the page preceding this a guide.  
The birds seen include murre,  
2 species of Puffins - Violet gr.  
Cormorants - Pacific Red-b.  
Glaucous Gulls - Black-th. Loon  
and just after leaving the "Zari"  
I saw a large brown bird evidently  
an Albatross in the water a  
couple of hundred yds. from the  
vessel. Its bill especially about  
the base showed light color or  
white. I could not make out  
distinctly.

July 12

At about 7 AM we anchored  
just off the village on King Island  
where the vessel remained until  
10 AM - From the anchorage which



is truly a fine house. The shore  
the shore the rugged granite wall  
appears to rise in sharp serrate  
high angular horizontal perpendicular  
upon all sides and the shore is  
entirely inaccessible cliffs  
except on the face where  
great granite boulders rounded  
by the waves afford a difficult  
climbing and just above this up  
the steep ascent on which one  
climbs with difficulty along the  
paths made zigzagging along  
the jagged rocks up about 100  
feet to where the natives have  
their houses. From the road  
the village has exactly the  
appearance of a lot of swallows  
nests plastered against a cliff.  
The small entrances of the houses  
showing as round black holes in  
the center of the houses built  
of blocks of granite made the  
appearance striking and

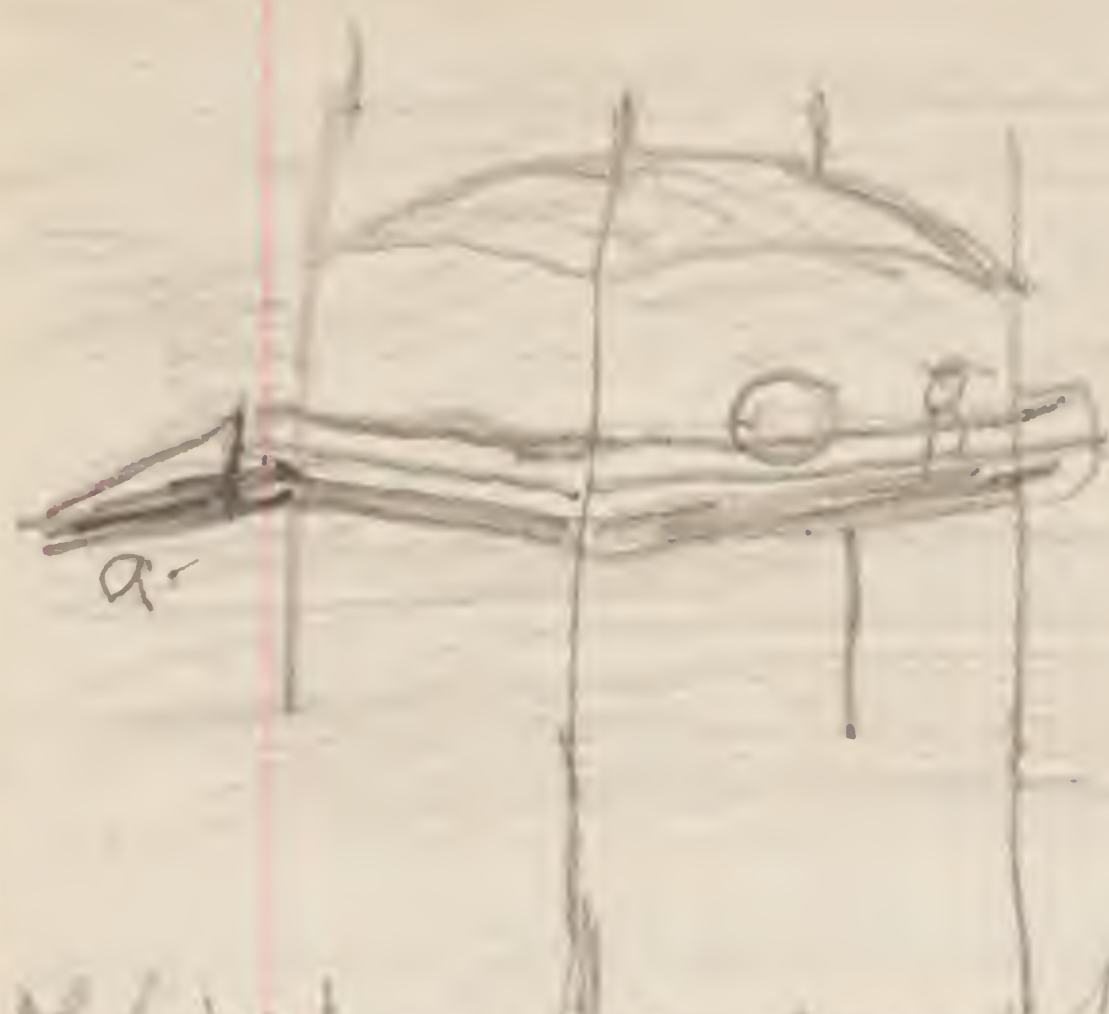
as the anchor went rattling down  
the natives set up a perfect howl  
and we saw them rushing down to the  
shore appearing like a lot of pygmies  
as they sprang from rock to rock  
down the steep slope. Near the  
water we saw their ~~boats~~ and kayaks  
and each man raising the kayak  
inverted on his head became changed  
too most remarkable appearing  
being as he crept in and among  
the huge boulders to the water  
with his strange shaped burden.  
Coming to the water edge the  
kayaks were lashed in pairs  
the trading goods placed thereon  
on top of them. They came paddling  
up to the vessel - the boats are  
finely made and rather short  
& broad with the following profile  
 their paddles  
all gayly colored with white  
black & red paints in figured  
patterns and nest spears



with the gracefully shaped  
boats made a pretty and  
strange picture as they  
came off -

Prof. Muir & I went on  
Rhodes and bought a  
few ethnologica and examined  
the houses as well as  
secured a couple of photos.  
The winter houses are half  
excavated in the hill &  
walled up with ~~stone~~  
stones on the outside  
and are entered by a  
long ascending stone  
arched tunnel. In the  
interior the structure is  
exactly as on sledges  
and the neighboring coast  
but I did not see any  
Cook rooms.

The summer houses  
are built as shown in the  
following sketch



This house supported on  
4 corner posts & with the  
floor at rear resting (or  
nearly so) upon the steep  
rocky slope of Go-while  
from the front a sheer fall  
of from 8 to 15 or 20 feet.  
A couple of planks led up  
from the ground at (a.)  
and a plank walk with a  
railing to guard against  
a fall led around to the hole  
in front. This hole about  
2 ft. in diameter led to  
the entrance and  
entering I found myself



in ~~an~~ ~~room~~ an outer  
room used as a general  
sitting & work room ~~at the~~  
comprising the front half  
of house. The rear half  
walled off with walrus  
hide into two equal  
apartments. Each of which  
is entered by a round hole  
smaller than the main  
entrance. These rooms  
answer to the place on  
the Asiatic where  
the sleeping apartment of the  
two families occupying  
the place and their ord.  
clothing, bedding & small  
valuables are kept. Their  
tools - implements, food  
&c. are kept in the  
room. The big couple  
occupying half the place  
asked me to sleep & were  
very pleasant but I

had to leave to run my  
business.

The walls ~~two~~ of these  
summer houses are ~~of~~  
of walrus hide.

The description answers  
for all.

They use clay lamps exactly  
like those on St. Lawrence.  
Their meat caches are  
small walled up rooms  
close in front of the winter  
houses & in summer two  
large deep clefts in the  
rock just to the right  
of the village and only  
to be entered from the sea  
are used as storerooms in  
summer. I became tired  
to leave so we got off to  
the ship after an incomplete  
survey of the place and  
stood off for Cape St. George  
Nares when we arrived.



In the afternoon a cluster  
of houses on a low knoll  
~~by the water~~ close under  
the wooded mountain which  
forms the headland to its  
left forms wharf village.  
The hill village and only  
a few fish houses and  
stitches in a straight  
line for 200 to 300 yds  
along the low sandy spit  
extending out to the Northward  
are the only people here.  
There is a marked lack  
of houses between the  
two series of houses and  
it is said that feud was  
common between people  
of the two places though  
the nearest houses are  
only 50 to 75 yds on the  
adjoining borders of the  
places and the people  
are the same.

Owing to the long stretch of shallow  
water making off from the Corom  
had to land and about 2 miles  
from shore - A single man  
with a dog on a leash came off  
and as they came near they  
halted and called out "Nā kū rīk  
rū kū rīk" several times in  
a deprecating tone to make us  
understand that their intentions  
were good. They were beached  
alongside and then pulled  
up hastily and suddenly two  
of the men recognized me and  
began to vociferate to attract my  
attention hoping thereby to  
make friends and then they came  
on board. This cautious manner  
of acting is caused by the lesson  
taught them a few seasons ago  
by the whaler on which they shot  
a gun and were rewarded with  
a well merited punishment by  
which they lost a lot of men.



Since then though having  
fragment rows & enough to  
keep up their reputation as the  
most villainous lot of natives  
along the American Coast they  
have behaved themselves tolerably  
well to vessels. The Uniak  
alongside brought walrus skins  
and ivory with a few wild  
Reindeer skins for trading  
but they were very careless  
whether they sold or not so  
we judged that other vessels had  
been here trading so they thought  
the rascals protested that our  
vessel had stopped here.  
As we stopped several boats  
(7 or 8) were seen coming in toward  
the Cape from toward the  
Diomedes. Taking the dingy  
<sup>two oarsmen</sup> with my camera and a  
box of trading goods I went in  
shore to the village taking  
one of the men I had who

knew me from having seen me  
at St. M. as one to explain the  
object of my visit. We rowed  
in over the strait separating the  
vessel from shore and as we got  
near the village an Uniak  
came off filled by about 20  
men which passed close by  
and went out to the vessel.  
I asked my mate if the  
people on shore were friendly  
and he replied *Kai Kuit* =  
"I do not know" which made  
me regret I had not  
brought in more men but  
it was too late ~~then~~ as this  
native, whom I could trust  
while I was in his charge  
had brought his Henry rifle  
along I felt tolerably at ease.  
This man kept telling me  
to steer farther to the right  
until we were to the right  
of the whole settlement and



then he pointed ~~at~~ out  
a tent in the hill town and  
said it was his - I selected  
in toward it and as we  
came to the low sandy  
beach a crowd of about  
two hundred men women &  
children came rushing  
down & seized the boat &  
helped draw it up on the  
sands for of the light surf  
running in -

I then took out the camera  
and secured a couple of  
views and taking a short  
look around at the town had  
just prepared to trade when  
the wind freshened so much  
that the rapidly increasing  
surf made me hurry off  
to the vessel for fear I  
might be caught in shore  
in a gale & forced to stay there  
overnight - no very pleasant

operation for one who knows  
the character of these people  
as well as I do. - As we were  
just off shore we saw a  
Bowhead Whale spouting  
on his feeding ground a  
mile beyond us - and 3  
Swans passed toward Port  
Clarence - Getting on board  
scarcely a half hour had  
passed when a dense fog  
which had obscured the  
Drumeds all the afternoon  
came sweeping over and  
enshrouded us so it was  
fortunate I did not wait  
ashore. When I came  
on board the vessel there  
were some 8 or 10 Umiaqs  
alongside most of which were  
the same which I had seen  
coming from toward the  
Drumeds when I went for  
them. I now learned that



these boats ~~are~~ were the  
annual trading boats  
from East Cape on their  
way to this place and  
even across Kotzebue Sound to  
Cape Blossom with tame  
Reindeer skins to trade  
for furs with the American  
natives. Some of the men in  
these boats are from Cape  
Jakan on the North Coast  
of Siberia and they started  
in early May with dog-  
sleds taking their boat  
in pieces on the sleds and  
when they are met by open  
water at the opening of  
Gummin, they put the  
boat together and change  
the mode of travelling. The  
return occupies till in  
early winter and then  
comes a winter visit  
to the trading fair at

Ghighiga near the Anadyr  
River, to trade the furs  
he gets in Alaska for  
Russian goods.  
One of these Cape Jakan  
men recognized Mr. Reynolds  
having seen him at Tapstan  
while Reynolds was there  
or on the coast party already  
mentioned.

Before I had time to see  
these Asiatics they hurried  
off in their ~~canoe~~ umiak  
as the Cutter got under  
way. Those who remained  
on board while I was on shore  
described these Chukchees  
as being tall muscular well  
built yellow. Their true  
or native language is  
totally unlike Eskimo.  
We rounded the Cape in  
a fog and stood for  
Kotzebue Sound.



These chukches according to  
Reynolds all (or many) practice the tomanre  
but I saw no labrets used on the Asiatic shore.

Reynolds says the people  
along the N. Asiatic shore  
seen by him have a few  
umiaks and no kayaks or  
other small boats.

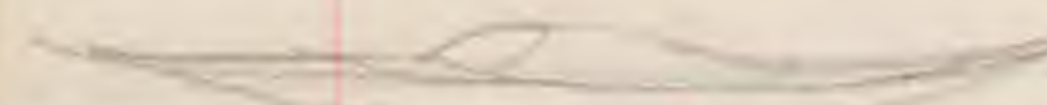

July 13<sup>th</sup>

Stood along in fine weather  
Clear and calm or light  
wind until noon when  
off Cape Eschschsch a sail  
was seen and a few hours  
later she was boarded &  
proved to be the <sup>Schr.</sup> C. S. Fowler on  
a trading trip for the W. F. & Co.  
she had on board about  
5 long walrus ivory with  
whalebone & fur.

While she was being  
searched the Capt. Sent  
the cutter in shore to  
examine a skin boat  
which paddled off as we  
came up. I accompanied  
Lt. Reynolds on this expedition

and as we passed along near  
the mouth of a narrow tide  
crack opened to view into which  
the umiak passed followed by  
our boat - passing the umiak  
we landed at a small summer  
camp of about 30 malenut  
living in 5 tents about which  
were scattered several <sup>upturned</sup> sleds  
with piles of dried seal and walrus  
meat all about - under a piece  
of old seal skin lay a fresh  
killed seal at the nose of which  
a puppy was trying to get a  
supper. Fastened to stakes  
in an irregular circle outside  
the encampment were about  
20 very fine native dogs  
which set up a howl of welcome  
as we landed which was joined  
in by the children and a crowd  
of women <sup>& children</sup> rushed down to the  
water to meet us. The umiak  
now landed & we found it was



inhabited entirely by women  
and children. The  
houses were built on  
topped drift appears about  
3 ft to 4 ft high. Some were  
drum poles and about 3 or 4  
feet in diameter but  
one was a conical  
lodging with about 10 ft  
high <sup>48 wide</sup> and made of poles.  
The houses were low  
narrow <sup>and</sup> of the typical  
Kongkoo type with flat  
upper surfaces except just  
in front of the occupant who  
has a raised ridge as  
 in the rough  
outline. I bought a few things  
from these people including  
a bone pointed roof peg  
and a club for driving  
wounded seal.  A  
wooden handle with heavy bone  
knob for a head. Afterwards

I took a short ramble over  
the ~~low~~ sand dunes which  
stretch back from the shore  
for several miles and are  
abundantly supplied with  
rockish pools and lagoons  
back of the 30 ft miles of  
this country low rolling  
hills appears to stretch into  
the interior mixed with  
the sand and forming a shingle  
beach 100 ft or so. Patches  
of quartz and mica schist or  
granite are seen with  
the ~~rock~~ two covered in  
mosses. A dense vegetation  
covered the sand ~~and~~ and  
numerous pretty flowers  
enlivened the knobby plots.  
In the wet places *Carex*  
~~was~~ abundant and  
the handsome flower of the  
Black Pea covered the ground  
in places with ~~the~~ of people



and Violet - I secured a single  
Dandelion beside a number  
of other flowers which I secured  
for my main collection.  
I also saw several  
butterflies one of which was  
captured as it flitted over  
the sandy marsh. Flitting  
among the sand dunes on  
about the borders of some  
the beach was a pool of water  
along the shore I saw several  
Lepidoptera, including the common  
Bicyclus thersites common.  
Northern Phalarope - Arctic  
Tern - Kittiwake - Glaucous Gull  
Black-throated Loon - Arctic  
form of Golden Plover -  
Harelda glacialis, arctica  
Several Puffins - Skuas  
and a few Red Phalaropes -  
A number of the individual  
of this last species were seen  
on the sea during the PM

some 10 or 15 miles off shore  
and quite a number of Arctic  
Loons (arcticus) were out there  
beside some a few Parrot-  
Billed Auklets and Murres.  
The people on shore appear  
to have sold all their goods  
with them except such things  
as chairs, pots, lamps, wooden  
ware. After an hour or so  
on shore we embarked &  
went on board and the Corwin  
steamed off toward the head  
of the Kolyuk sound.

July 14<sup>th</sup>

At 6:30 AM I went on deck  
and found we were just passing  
Chamisso Island on the <sup>low</sup> rounded  
top of which could be just  
distinguish the roof marking  
the Astronomical Station erected  
by the English about 60 years  
ago - Leaving the Island on



10 miles beyond

the left we passed by  
Spargen's Bay until stopped  
by shoal water. To the right  
5 miles to our right the  
coast of the bay was bordered  
by a low bluff, for some distance  
to the right - between  
these was a cañon. Some  
8 miles broad and extending  
to 7 miles inland and coming  
narrowing and finally limited  
by low rolling hills, which  
extend back into the interior.  
The bluff to the right of our  
anchorage is formed by


the cutler was underway  
and at 9 am. Looking for  
Main and my party started  
for the mouth of a small river  
as laid down on chart but which  
we found to be only a creek  
whose broad saltwater channel  
filled with sand & silt with

salt water lagoon along the shore  
had deceived the earlier  
navigators - We worked up  
about 6 miles and just reached  
the limit of tide water and found  
the straits above the numerous  
shallow branches it makes  
just below this to be 20 to 25  
yds wide and four or 5 ft deep.  
From here it <sup>course</sup> disappeared winding  
back among the low hills but  
it probably does not extend  
over 25 or 30 miles into the  
interior and becomes very  
insignificant after the snow banks  
are all melted.

After leaving the ship we landed  
on the beach <sup>on</sup> where we found a  
dead seal (mukluk) about 7 ft  
long - We found the beach to  
be pebbly and sandy and  
to be formed of mica slate and  
quartz rocks. The land for  
several miles back and all



the width of the flat between  
the bluffs mentioned before &  
the one to the left of which  
forms the <sup>left</sup> bank of the mouth of  
the estuary going in is  
formed of this sand & pebbles  
in low ridges & dunes and  
along the coast so thick  
filled with lagoons, from  
the estuary and with numerous  
brackish pools. A number  
of broods of Lays ducks, brails  
and numerous females without  
young were seen and two  
nests found with unhatched  
eggs. A number of Snowbirds  
were doing about me and  
a great pile of waterfowl  
young. Near the mouth of  
the estuary on the rounded ground  
between the parallel along  
the sea shore I went to and I  
found the site of an ancient  
but considerable settlement

the pits measuring about  
15' though all were rather  
small. They had the following  
shape  At the end  
the sand ridge of the estuary mouth  
and 300 yds beyond this old  
village was a new but recently  
occupied as seen by track egg  
shells lying about. ~~There~~ There  
There were Lapland Longspurs  
and Savanna Sparrows among  
the sand dunes. ~~and~~ Getting  
into the boat we pushed our  
way up among the sand dunes  
and small islands of the  
estuary for 3 or 4 miles and  
landed again at the foot of  
a low <sup>steep</sup> bluff about 20 ft  
high where we hoped to find  
fossil bones but only two or  
three small decayed  
fragments of Elephant bones  
marked us in this line  
though we were otherwise



repaired by finding numerous  
butterflies of four species  
3 of which I secured.  
*Dendroica flava* was common  
along the edge of the low  
bluff and *Lophophanes*  
common everywhere and  
their young flying about  
*Semipalmated Sandpipers* and  
*Northern Phalaropes* also  
common as were *Glaucopteryx* and  
Short-billed gulls & Arctic  
Terns about the estuary  
Many pretty flowers, decked  
the ground and mosquitoes &  
other flies were common  
and several Humble Bees  
were seen. After stopping  
for tea just above the  
bluff we went on until  
up one of the shallow branches  
of the stream we were  
aground and we then went  
on shore. I found a pair

of swans & young also a number  
of pairs of White-fronted  
Geese with young. These  
latter scuttled into a bog  
of the straggles by some stupidly  
about looking at me until I came  
up within about 20 yds of the  
nearest. Some *Mergus serrator*  
and a very few Pintail ducks  
seen. A brood of downy young  
*Harelda* & their mother were  
seen. And several jaegers  
(*S. richardsoni*) two in the black  
plumage. And the nest of  
*Glaucopteryx* gull with young  
half grown on small island  
in a pond on the flats.  
Near the sea shore the burrows  
of Parry's marmot were seen.  
We started back now & had  
a stiff headwind. on our way  
we ran across a flock of some  
hundred or over *Buteo borealis*  
with their wingfeathers shed. They



time of pleasant even warm weather  
all day.

~~Boat~~ and jibbed away  
as rapidly as possible  
and as my shot was exhausted  
we could get none.

As we neared the mouth of  
the estuary a flock with  
hundreds of *Oedemia americana*  
crossed ahead of us & circled  
about & lighting again.

The whole flock contained  
males only. One of which I shot  
in the morning.

About 7:45 AM we got on  
board. No natives were seen  
today by any one.

July 15<sup>th</sup>

Early in the morning the  
coast was under way and we  
steamed up the coast to Cape  
Bledon. Misty & raining  
at intervals all day - the  
coast mainly obscured.

About 4 PM - we were close  
under the Cape but in place.

of the hundreds of natives we expected  
to find congregated here only a  
single tent was seen. Last year  
at this season Capt. H. found  
some 1200 natives ( Eskimos ) here.  
Capt. H. P. M. & myself landed in  
the tug boat at this tent and  
found a poor miserable family  
engaged in catching & drying  
salmon the ordinary type of the  
Rivich - upon the beach lay  
a pile of flounders of the  
rough skinned species with  
the black & yellowish fins so  
common at St. M.

The fishing is done differently  
here than what I have seen  
elsewhere. The net is some <sup>120</sup> 15 yds  
long & with floats & surface  
as usual but the inner end is  
made fast to some stationary  
object on shore & then the stone  
anchor for outer end is pushed  
off shore & out the length of the




sub into the water by a  
long rod made the proper  
length by lashing together light  
poles - with a net at one  
end for holding fast the line  
or anchor stone. The net in  
position the pole is withdrawn  
and the fisher waits for his  
game to get entangled & then the  
net is drawn on shore again.  
The old man told us that the Indians  
had been here some days ago  
but had moved to the mouth  
of Hotham Inlet. The only thing  
in the way of ethnology was  
a small soapstone lamp bought  
of the woman for a trifle.


The old man claimed acquaintance  
saying he had seen at H. living  
a year ago -

We soon returned on board &  
up anchor and stood around  
the Cape and made for the  
mouth of Hotham Inlet which

was made late in eve. As we  
came in we found the scho-  
"C.D. Jander" (schooner) lying at  
anchor off the village some  
3 or 4 miles - ~~where~~ we left  
this vessel at Cape <sup>Esperanza</sup>  
on our way into the Sound -  
Her decks as we passed were  
seen to be perfectly jammed  
with natives whose heads  
hung on both sides & trailed  
out behind her. We went  
in much closer, the northerly  
sand gravel spit guarding  
the mouth of the inlet here on  
the northern side - As we  
stood in the low spit was  
seen covered with a long line  
of Council lodges in a line  
over a mile long. Coming  
to anchor about 3 miles off  
we lay a short time when  
in spite of the high wind  
and sea some Umiahs came



off from the Schooner a  
mile or so outside & others  
came from shore - They formed  
a motley crowd mainly from  
the Kowak & Nuyatog River  
All had labrets holes at the  
each corner of mouth &  
wore large labrets the heads  
of which varied from 2 inches  
to 1 1/2 inch the larger ones  
were all made of a large  
circular plate of white stone  
in the center of which was  
placed the half of a large  
blue bead of the kind so much  
prized among these people  
The following sketch gives the  
shape.  The smaller labrets  
were made of granite, soft  
coal, green jade ~~rather~~ quartz  
slate & other kinds of rocks  
and were made with  
rounded button like head  
or with angular or round

plug like projecting ends -  
The weight & size of these  
ornaments distorted the  
under lip to such an extent  
that the mouth took the following  
shape  giving a coarse  
triangular opening behind  
which a double row of fletching  
teeth shone out -

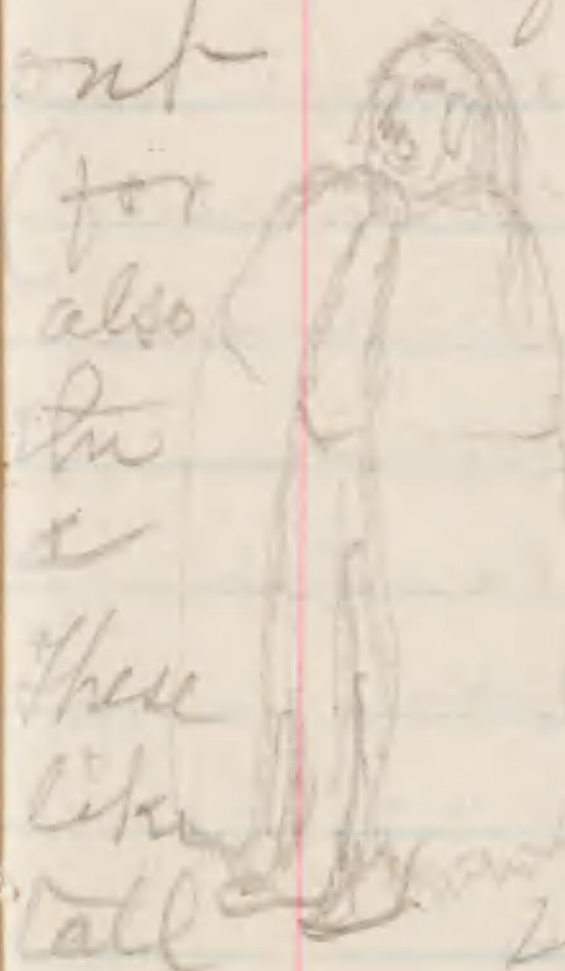
The women have three or  
four radiating tattooed lines  
across the chin like most  
male & women.

Among those who came on  
board was one man with  
coarse curly hair like that  
seen on a partly african  
blooded man forming a bushy  
~~crinkled~~ loosely crinkled  
mop of hair - I noticed a  
number of men and a few  
women with this same kind  
of hair along the Asiatic  
shore from East Cape to



Plowry Bay - I have not  
seen this kind of hair between  
the ~~people~~ Eskimo about the  
Yukon or Kuskokwim.  
Perhaps it comes from mixed  
blood - Ingalik & Eskimo  
in one case or Chukchee & Eskimo  
in the other? Among these  
river people (from Kowakoo  
Nunatog) were seen quite a  
number with curved noses  
& other striking resemblance  
to the Ingaliks of the Yukon  
but in every case they had  
labret holes in their lips  
and claim to be Eskimo  
talking a dialect similar to the  
malamut of Hotham Inlet  
but probably containing many  
Ingalik words. Though it  
was impossible for me to  
ascertain with the limited  
time and lack of interpreter.  
These people resembling the

Ingaliks in several cases wore  
moose skin shirts & round  
caps both embroidered with  
beads - The River Eskimo  
commonly wore tanned  
deer skin robes tied about the  
shoulders & falling nearly to the  
ground & fastened with a cut  
border of beads - This robe hair  
out with the shaved crown  
for these river people  
also practice the torsure) and  
the large labrets make  
strange masks -  
these people are as a rule  
like all the malamuts  
tall well built men with  
a fair sandy coloring - They  
wore the common style of  
deer skin parkies with a frill  
made of <sup>Parry's marmot</sup> ~~fox~~ muskrat  
and the large species of marmot  
or "Siffleur" of the Hudson Bay  
men. Also one or two of the





Mountain Sheep Skin —  
The crowd who came on  
board brought a few furs  
which the Capt. secured &  
the natives were told to  
bring on their deerskins  
tomorrow and then they were  
told to go on shore & return  
in the morning. They asked  
to stop on board all night  
but were told to go. For these  
people all along this coast  
think anything they can  
get from a ship is lawful  
spoils and are accordingly  
light fingers. As I went  
below about midnight I  
saw a woman and two little  
girls one two & the other about  
5 years old curled up & fast  
asleep in their ordinary  
clothes against the Companionway  
though the wind was howling  
across the deck over and

chilly enough for us to require  
overcoats.

July 16<sup>th</sup> Notham Inlet  
Awake at 7 am the sun shining  
pleasantly into the skylight —  
As soon as I was dressing  
saw <sup>through the skylight</sup> several <sup>ten</sup> <sup>times</sup> filled with  
people & deer skins patiently  
waiting until they were allowed  
to come on deck. I went up as  
soon as possible and saw a jolly  
good natured crowd peering  
up from the boats with  
a fair sprinkling of women  
& children. Many of the latter  
bring extremely fat & looking  
as though ready to burst. They  
had such a puffed up countenance  
& all women while their <sup>eyes</sup> <sup>seemed</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>danger</sup>  
black eyes seemed in danger  
of popping out. As I appeared  
at the rail a dozen or so began  
to cry out to me but their dialect  
is so different from that used at



So that I could scarcely make  
out anything. The interpreter  
talking incessantly and making  
no sense at all. After that  
the Capt. had a lot of ammunition  
to be seen, drill, relics and  
small articles and a few  
taken into the pilot  
house and the natives started  
to bring in their deerskins  
and then followed about six  
hundred of trading during which  
over a hundred deerskins  
beaver skins, muskrat  
and some Arctic hare were  
brought in. From my market  
"whistles" being soon bought.  
The deer skins were mainly  
fall and winter skins and  
several tent or lodge covers  
containing 6 winter skins each  
were bought. About 4.30 P.M.  
after all the trading was

ended the Capt. gave me the  
Cutter with his interpreter and  
7 or 8 men and I went in to the  
settlement through the very  
rough sea running in upon the  
shore. Then had some heavy  
norwesterly wind all day and when  
I went in I feared that my  
would prevent my landing for  
when we showed off the schooner  
which came up near us about  
noon - was pitching so high her  
bottom showed at intervals.  
However we neared the shore  
a sand bar a couple of hundred yds  
off shore made the waves break  
then thus leaving comparatively  
smooth water in there and I  
landed without difficulty and was  
at once surrounded by from two to  
three hundred natives ~~small~~ sailing  
good naturedly and shouting a  
string of unintelligible words  
to me or to each other and crowding



close about to examine me  
as though I was a rare find.  
My camera & trading boxes  
were landed and a crowd of  
volunteers at once caught them  
up & invited me & the interpreter  
to follow - which we did with  
a jolly chattering rabble clad  
in fur garments in all  
stages of wear and corresponding  
odor while the dirty browned  
faces with great labors  
at the corners of mouths of  
the men and the chin lines  
of the women all with  
eyes glistening with excitement  
and the mouths stretched to  
the utmost in broad grins while  
a mob ofurchins tumbled  
one over the other trying to  
run ahead & look back to see  
the strange bring.  
As we drew near shore & we  
saw extending in a line along

the beach a row of umiaks  
all stern on to the sea & tilted up on one  
side with their bottoms to the  
wind & ~~the~~ the upper sail  
upheld by ~~the~~ sticks about 75 yds  
back of these were ranged a line  
of kyaks (all of the typical Kotzebue Sappattin)  
numbering about 200 (there were  
about 20 to 70 umiaks). These kyaks  
were placed upon ~~a~~ low <sup>3 ft high</sup> ~~trucks~~ made  
for the purpose and all ranged parallel  
to each other & pointing in a line with  
the umiaks - just below each kyak  
on a rut 3 or 4 inches from ground  
were placed the paddles & spears  
belonging with the kyak - 50 yds  
back of the kyaks ranged in a parallel  
series were the conical lodges  
behind which were the dogs of the  
owner fastened to stakes & just  
far enough apart to be out of reach  
of each other. The tent boats &c  
all ranged in a regular parallel  
series formed the only native camp

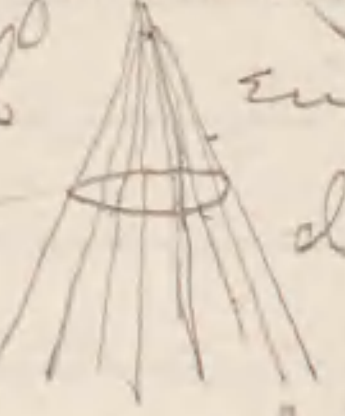


I have seen exhibiting any attempt at regularity of arrangement and this one was as perfectly regular as though arranged by white men.

The following rough sketch gives some idea of the place though a better one can be had from the photo's views I secured as soon as I landed from different points. I also ~~made~~ took photos of groups of natives from the Nunatog & Kowak including one of the lodges. These latter are invariably covered with deer skins sewed together the hair on outside and laid over a frame work of converging sticks which are supported midway of their length by a hoop to which the sticks or poles are lashed as follows - the apex being about 10 feet from ground & the diameter at base some 12 to 15 feet and they are

usually occupied by from one to two families each and not more generally by one family.

If the owner is rich enough & most of them were the deer skin cover is covered again by a



drill covering. I had my boxes & bags carried into a lodge after securing views I bought a number of ethnologic specimens mainly small articles of ivory work etc. - ~~then~~ I had fairly started buying when I saw by my watch that it was time for me to return.



plan of village camp on Horkum Inlet Kumiak 2 - Kyoaks 3 - tents  
a = drack - gravelly. the whole a gravelly flat.

on board the vessel so much to my regret I had to leave many very interesting things and go on board. The wind was a trifle lighter.



than when we came off but it was  
a stiff pull against round tide  
the latter running strongly into  
the inlet. We got on board again  
but found the vessel would not  
start until the next am.

From the natives I learn that  
Reindeer are extremely abundant  
up the Kowak & Nunatog - they also  
say that Mt. Sheep are very numerous  
up the latter stream which they report  
as <sup>having</sup> very swift current and  
flowing between high rocks.

The Kowak they say is slow and  
flows through a flat country.  
Both rivers are large.

These natives had muskrat skins  
quite a number of which  
were melanistic - this being  
the region where this variation  
is quite common among these animals.  
Parry's marmot skins the Whistler  
Ermine - Black & Brown Bear  
Lynx - Wolverine - Wolf - White &

Red Fox skins <sup>martens</sup> Beside Reindeer  
& Mt. Sheep skins are all from  
of to trade for side Ham & Rabbit skins.  
Porcupines are said to be very  
abundant on the inner shore of the  
inlet - White fox skins are only taken  
along the coast.

In one boat I saw a lot of  
smelts & grasshopper caught -  
Kotzebue's Gull & the murre  
are about the only birds seen  
here. The natives & umiaks here  
as well as at Cape Mowat  
& Cape Krusenstern have almost  
exactly the same form as in  
Norton Sound & also along the  
intermediate shore the shape holds  
the same. At this place however  
the paddles blades are very short  
and round as follows being  
the largest blades I have seen  
among the umiaks I noticed  
upon several umiaks close  
to the bow the figure of a man



When on shore the crowd broke the lodge in which  
I was buying speck & I had to make the owner a  
present. This man like most of the men here  
carries a brick loading revolver.

Painted roughly in black. This  
probably has some significance  
but what I did not learn.

July 7 - Ittoham Inlet to Pt. Hope

At 4 am - up anchor & we  
passed on up the coast with  
a stiff head wind or nearly so  
all day - The coast obscured  
by fog or clouds more or less  
and when it was seen showing  
black & barren with rounded  
wind beaten gray hill tops  
rarely rising over 12 or 15 hundred  
feet except back from the coast  
some distance - Nothing of note  
took place on the way up -

The <sup>few</sup> snow banks in gullies & other  
sheltered places about Kotzebue Sound  
became more & more numerous  
though still limited in extent  
and number the farther we advanced  
to the north - As we passed along  
a few miles of the low flat  
shore which makes out a short

distance from the hills rising back  
a little we passed a number of  
native camps of which all were  
made of skin lodges - Capt. Ittoham  
when he went along this same  
strip of coast last year at this  
time from almost every one  
of the <sup>many</sup> small lagoons along the  
rimmed loaded with oil & came  
off <sup>the shore</sup> yelling at the top of their voices to  
have him stop & take - The strong  
wind and the absence of the people  
at the rendezvous on Ittoham Inlet  
probably accounts for our not seeing  
any of them this trip. The camps  
we saw were travelling parties on their  
way down to the pier.

Murres were numerous all day  
flapping awkwardly away from  
the vessel as we came along or  
passing across the bow & stern in  
small flocks frequently circling back  
to get a better view -



July 18<sup>th</sup> Bunt Hope  
Came to anchor just to the S.  
inside this Cape to take shelter  
from a gale which increased in  
violence all night and this morning  
was blowing hard almost ahead with  
frequent snow squalls & the  
thermometer down to 39° Fahr. As we  
came in under the point we found  
the barque Sea Breeze lying at  
anchor. She having taken 7 whales  
and has just returned from above  
Icy Cape where she was whaling  
until 3 days ago when the ice  
was drifted in there & she ran down  
here to avoid it & to ride out the  
north E. W. gale which has been  
blowing the last day or two.

The ice is well to the N. & the season  
open & favorable for whaling.  
Some natives came off in ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~uniate~~  
from shore and sold a few things  
such as ivory & whale bone (the main  
things they secure here)

The wind increased all day & was  
blowing a heavy gale in the eve-  
and very cold and raw - though the  
sun was shining through the  
hazy foginess in the atmosphere.  
About 3 P.M. - Capt. H. Dwyer & I went on  
shore and had a long & tiresome walk of  
a mile & a half along the track of gravel  
& small loose pebbles which with sand  
forms the whole of the low flat point  
near which extends from the base of  
the mountains out about 10 to 12  
miles with a nearly equal breadth  
at base. About a mile ~~inland~~  
inside the village & on the N. shore  
of point is the grave yard which is  
a mile long & contains many graves  
and apparently, as seen from a distance  
a number of elevated dikes but the  
time on shore was unfortunately  
limited so that it was impossible  
for me to visit it.

From the time of our anchoring  
till we went ashore a crowd of 20



to thirty natives had remained seated on the beach just opposite us and evidently finding great comfort in watching us for the sea wind must have swept with all its force over their exposed position all day. As we rowed in the wind seemed to sweep down with extra force and sent the spray flying over the boat though we were close in shore. As we neared the beach a perfect rabble came trooping down from the village, young and old - and they appeared a hard looking crew of filthy wretches who caught hold of us on every side and vociferated "a sin" "a sin" "a present" "a present" I had a roll of leaf tobacco under my arm to buy implements and they were continually trying to pilfer from it - some hung on our arms or crowded against us and demanded presents until we were half way to the village when the first excitement over they

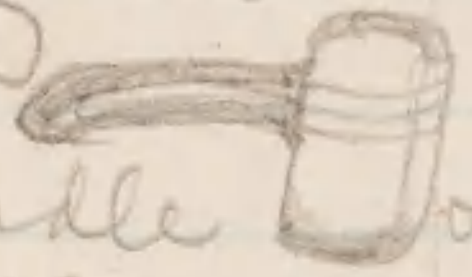


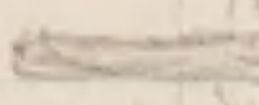
tramped along in a motley crowd of wretches like Falstaff's recruits and it was a ludicrous sight seeing Capt. D. struggling along over the loose gravel with a native on either side asking for his gloves while others ran before or straggled along behind - As we made our way toward the village our attention was called to the numerous dwarfed but extremely handsome flowers which appeared to spring up and blossom wherever the least bit of soil afforded foot hold - Gay tints of red - purple yellow and white profusely scattered over the ground among the round blue & grey pebbles of quartz & slate made the scene far less barren & harsh than it would otherwise have been. A striking peculiarity of these arctic flowers is that growing on the most sterile soil in bleak windy places the leaves of the plant commonly hug the surface tenaciously



so that the plants commonly form  
closely aggregated patches of moss-like  
boases on the ground with a deep  
green surface - through the dense  
rounded mat of <sup>small</sup> leaves are thrust  
innumerable slender stalks  
which bud & blossom as soon as they  
top the leaves thus adding above the  
layer of deep green as a background  
another layer but little thinner  
of the richest & most delicate colors  
as the case may be of blue purple  
pink, red or white - or may be yellow.  
The striking delicacy of coloring  
& form of these flowers taken  
with their surroundings makes  
one of the most pleasing parts of  
arctic scenery and one most common  
and striking even several hundred  
feet above the sea as far north as  
this. We found the most of the people  
we met here hard featured - bold &  
impudent - many of them with  
villainously ugly countenances with

sinister mouths & brows bearing  
out the character given them by  
the whalers & traders who come here  
& who unite in giving them a  
very bad name as thieves &  
rogues of the worst kind -  
Approaching the village (which  
must contain from 300 to 400  
people in winter, judging from  
the size of the winter village)  
we found the people living in  
conical lodges except a large  
roomy tent built on the  
white Mans model this being  
the Chiefs summer residence.  
The natives pointed out a turned  
up mumiak as a place for us to  
stop - so getting in its shelter  
with my goods I opened a  
market for buying ethnologic  
spec's for about an hour when  
the Capt. became impatient and  
I was foiled of completing the work  
I had hoped on accomplishing for



this is a rich place for various articles owing to the abundance of ivory etc. Their snow shovels are edged on end of blade with ivory. They have fine spears, stone lamps and other things of none of which I had time to secure. I obtained some good things but had to leave a fine quartz bone breaker or Hammer Stone shaped as follows with a bone handle & weighing in all some pounds and a half.  another fine thing was a ladle  of fossil elephant ivory holding a pint or more & shaped as follows.  I also noticed that  they have an unusually large number of flint arrow, lance heads as though they were still or had until lately used them. The flint lance heads are probably used whaling to bay

We closed the trading rapidly and at which a ~~hot~~ howl was raised and a jam of natives trying by vociferating to each get a present at the same time looking for an opportunity to steal something. I kept a close look out and supposed nothing had been taken till a villainous looking old fellow came rushing through the crowd crying out that he had not been paid enough for something or other. As he got <sup>close</sup> and appeared to be in a great rage he raised his left hand and I caught sight of a comb which he had pilfered from my box and I at once caught his hand & demanded it back telling him through the interpreter that he had stolen it for I had not given out a single comb here. He denied it at first but I insisted & he reluctantly yielded the comb saying it had accidentally got into his hand with some traces he held which



I strongly suspected was also stolen but could not ascertain certainly so said nothing but took the comb & the old barrel chunk back amid the laughter of his companions and said no more about being paid.

The umiaks are the same shape here as elsewhere along the coast but perhaps a little more slender. The paddle blades on this boat are also shaped as follows - quite differently from those <sup>used</sup> at Hotham Inlet.



The dialect used here is closely related to that used by the Kotzebue St. Marenmuts but is very different in several respects from the form used on Norton Id.

These Pt. Hope people wear great labrets similar to those

in use noted from the people seen at Hotham Inlet. The women tattoo the ordinary radiating Chin. lines and the irregular lines crossing the back of the wrist of the arm precisely like the other implements.

These labrets give a coarse distorted shape to the mouth which combined with the massive jaws heavy cheek bones heavy brow & the impudent aggressive manners of the men combine to render them very disagreeable visitors and we were not sorry when the last one was shown again in the evening.



July 19

July 19, Point Hope to Cape Thompson  
and back

The gale continued all night  
and early in the morning the  
Corwin headed out around the  
point for the North in the teeth  
of the gale but such a sea was  
running that the Capt. decided it  
foolish to proceed so she was turned  
about and ran back down the  
coast some 20 odd miles to behind  
Cape Thompson a bold rocky  
cliff or headland about 5 to 600  
feet high and on the rugged  
and crumpling face of which  
myriads of *Arnes* were nesting  
some with fresh eggs and many  
with hatched young. *Breeding*  
in the higher most inaccessible  
parts of the cliff were a great  
many *Katzen Kittiwakes* so  
that the whole face of the bluff  
showed white for miles away from  
their excrements as we drew

near the wind increased in  
violence and came tearing  
down the cliffs in "woolly"  
which could be seen striking  
in a whirl upon the water <sup>fracturing</sup>  
it into spray and carrying  
clouds of it up in a great  
ragged pillar even to the top  
of the cliff - With the glasses  
as we passed along we could  
see every jagged point of rock  
offering foothold was occupied by  
a bird and every shelf like projection  
bore a solid array of *Arnes* sitting  
almost upright & from a distance  
with their white backs outward  
appearing like rows of bottles bearing  
large white labels - Two narrow  
~~canyons~~ cuts in the cliff (one  
to the southward giving a passage  
to a stream of sparkling clear  
melted water flowing over a rocky  
bed into the sea just in the  
middle of the bluffs were each



occupied as they disembarked  
on the beach by a party of  
Pt. Hope natives on their way  
to Notham Inlet who were laid  
up here for better weather.  
Their ~~at~~ conical lodges  
covered with old seal skin  
and drill with the umaks  
resting on one side close to  
the water and the dogs &  
people moving about as we  
came in made a pleasing  
foreground to the <sup>stem</sup> rugged back  
of cliffs down which the savage  
blasts of wind in a perfect  
fury seemed to bring  
destruction. The lee of  
all high land in Bering Sea  
and hence the Arctic seems  
to be a place of redoubled  
violence for the wind whenever  
there is a strong wind outside -  
woolys begin at once to  
make themselves felt about

the lee of the cliffs & headland.  
We came to anchor just about  
200 yds off the cut where the  
stream flows down and prepared  
for taking in water. The Capt.  
Prof. M. & I went on shore in  
the first boat sent in with a  
load of breakers for water and  
the wind blew with such force  
that the Capt. ordered a line  
run between the vessel & shore  
to haul the boat back forth.  
We landed and were surrounded  
at once by a dozen clamorous  
natives demanding presents &  
crowding about like their brethren  
at Pt. Hope. The 3 lodges here  
were mainly formed of tanned  
seal skin with a square door  
in the side about 2 ft from the  
ground as follows:





The track here is composed of  
pebbles & gravel formed <sup>Clay</sup> of late,  
limestone and a few quartz pebbles.  
The high cliff just to the north  
west of the mouth of the creek  
is formed of numerous thin strata of  
a dark, hard stone with cleavage  
so it comes off in small cubes  
a few inches in diameter or  
in some places in almost  
squared cubical blocks up to  
a foot. These strata have a  
remarkable contorted curvature  
near this stream which is  
figured in Capt. Hooper's  
report of 1880.

Some of these strata contain  
fossil shells, *Spingaster* &c  
and but I had considerable  
trouble to find a specimen  
of the fossiliferous rock with  
distinct specimens in it.  
I secured specimens of several  
strata though the wind blew

with such fury that every  
grain filled the air with fine gravel  
flying like shot & stinging ones face  
like <sup>sharp</sup> needles. Going back  
to the native camp I saw a pile  
of murre the natives had  
caught with nets by letting  
themselves over the cliffs  
& capturing the birds as they sat  
stupidly on their eggs which latter  
are also secured in this manner.  
Washing about at the foot of the cliff  
were quite a number of dead  
murre probably killed by falling  
rocks &c.

Following a small sheltered  
gully up the hillside I was delighted  
at the <sup>revelation</sup> carpet of beautiful flowers  
strewn lavishly up the whole course  
to the top of the hill. When I  
came near the top I turned and  
sat in a sheltered nook looking  
down at the wild and lovely scene  
before me - the foreground formed



by the sloping side of the gully  
covered with bright green moss  
thickly intermixed with rich and  
varied flowers descending to the  
mouth of the creek which gladdens  
and deepens in mimic rills down  
its rocky bed from the heavy  
white snow banks rugged close  
to the base of the rugged hills  
forming the rough uneven  
interior - The gravelly beach  
with the rather camp and  
the snow from the creek  
filling the gaps gave a miniature  
to this part of the scene just  
before us in the midst of the  
driving spray and white caps  
along the coast line as outlines  
showing handsomely the  
peninsula stretching like arms  
into the interior leading where  
the foot of white men never trod  
looked very thoroughly gloomy  
from the barren nature of them

walls while the melancholy  
of the wind sweeping down their  
courses and over the hills made  
the forbidding aspects of the hills  
still more striking. The dead  
ashen gray of the hills was lightened  
here & there however by spots of vivid  
green. Several butterflies were seen  
caught here & there & went up  
to the tops of the cliffs where  
joined the wind blowing so that  
it was difficult to make any  
advance except with a nose to  
the cliff - The ground even on the barren  
rocky windswept hilltop was  
dotted here & there with numerous  
handsome little flowers and  
a single Snow Bunting with  
many Golden Plover were seen  
Looking out over the stormy sea  
two Whalers were seen making in  
behind Point Hope - I returned soon  
after to the ship finding all about on  
the hills the burrows of Lemmings & marmots



Prof M came back & reported finding  
a bed of limestone cropping out on  
the inland part of the hills.

Among the plants I saw were the  
common species found in most  
places thus far beside a beautiful  
Dodecatheon or shooting star of a  
clear purple - Small willows  
a foot high were seen in the  
most favorable places bearing large  
light green leaves & long catkins  
and with a fuzzy or hairy growth  
all along their stems. Other  
plants not noted before were seen  
& will be noted from Miss Collection.

About 4 P.M. we started for Pt. Hope  
which we reached late in eve-  
and came to anchor behind its  
shelter the wind still blowing a gale.  
At noon today while at Cape

Thompson the Belugas came close  
along the beach in a school  
of 50 or less making one ♀ would  
be escorted by 3 or 4 males crowding

as close alongside as possible while the  
young one always kept close over  
its mother's back. They kept  
running back & forth here & there  
a couple of hours or so.

They lifted their heads half out of water  
each time they came up & moved  
very slowly although looking about.  
As we neared Pt. Hope we passed  
the two whales I saw earlier in the day.  
They were not spoken to ~~before~~  
~~as the~~ The "Sea Breeze" spoken  
yesterday reports a good season.

July 20 - Pt. Hope -  
Laid off the inside (to south) of this  
place all the morning. This  
natives came on board <sup>in an</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>among</sup>  
them bring the Chief here who is such  
through terror as he has shot 4 of them  
already and made the rest much afraid  
of him - During the trading when any  
of them bid a fair price and begged  
for more he would quietly take the  
goods & hand them to the man and



the latter would take them & not  
say a word further.

The natives here as at many places  
along the coast asked for cartridges  
and especially for whiskey and  
offered a good price for what they  
called a drop by which they  
would represent by holding the  
palm of hand up & licking it  
with tongue & then indicate that  
they desired enough to get drunk  
by wagging the head in a drunken  
manner. Among other things they offered  
to trade was a skin of the Arctic Hare  
with a red fox's tail ~~sewed~~ sewed to it  
evidently made for a practical joke -  
After their articles of value are sold  
they always bring out a lot of worthless  
stuff which they persistently offer to sell  
apparently for the amusement of being  
refused and laugh when it is not  
taken - I secured several good  
photos of these natives on board but  
when I took one of the chief alone

I had considerable trouble in  
getting him to remain quiet for he  
became extremely nervous when I  
covered my head in the focussing  
cloth and it was only when I told him that  
it would be bad for him if he moved that he  
(under the grater glass) remained quiet long  
enough to get a photo. As soon as it was  
accomplished he had me change places  
with him & he went through the performance  
of covering his head & peering through  
at me - and after having my inverted  
image shown him he came out  
with a grin of satisfaction.

The natives all went on shore about  
11 a.m. & soon after some Beluga  
came along the beach & a 273 grown  
one was killed by a rifle ball from  
shore - The Capt. & I went  
on shore to see it & while there  
a ♀ with a young one came along  
& the ♀ was shot & killed after a  
short chase along shore - the  
young one after its mother was



killed swim about at a distance  
raising its head out of water to try  
& find its parent again -

The natives came towing back  
the last catch and singing a  
dancing song to express their  
satisfaction for they had launched their  
umiak and given chase at the first shot.  
We returned on board and about  
10 PM - started out and stood up  
for the north along the coast  
against the high wind which however  
constantly decreased.

The coast grew higher & higher  
until at Cape Lixbourne it formed  
a high rugged headland about  
1000 feet high. To the right  
of the point a mile are some contorted  
strata bent almost into a  
circle and very dark. The  
precipitous face of the whole  
coast along here shows  
series of dark brown or yellowish  
strata inclined from N. to S.

at an angle of about 70° to horizon.  
One bluff abutting on the  
sea to the south of the Cape or  
4 miles has a great number of  
jagged spurs projecting above  
& through the loose inclined bed of  
friable material covering the slope  
giving the impression of the roof of  
a many spired church sitting through  
a bed of earth.

Just to the north of the Cape close to  
the point is another precipitous  
slope showing a jagged serrated  
slope with the roughest & most  
striking spur of rock projecting corners  
on its sides & flanks. This out lies in  
in a sweeping slope to the northward  
forming the bed of an ancient glacier.  
A small group of 2 or 3 native houses  
(winter) were seen clinging the side  
of the mt. Upon the upper part  
of the hill on the point were  
numerous large snow banks  
and a peculiar grayish tinge



shows when fresh snow has fallen  
within a day or two

Leaving the coast trending  
eastward and continuing high

as far as can be seen  
we started for Point Lay

XX July 21

Arrived in morning to find  
low land visible on the left  
all along - the high land  
of Cape Lisburne having ceased  
long before. Toward midday  
we came in nearer shore  
to the S. of Icy Cape hoping  
to go inside the Blossom Shoals  
The high coast cliffs extending  
some distance N. & S. of Cape  
Lisburne disappeared before  
we reached Point Lay where  
a low sand & gravel spit  
extends along the coast far north  
of Icy Cape and shuts in a shallow  
lagoon all along the coast line  
here - Back of the lagoons

could be seen low rolling knolls  
& flat tundra

Cape Lisburne is the breeding place  
of many Kolgnes Gulls & Murre  
like Cape Thompson -

As we ran along the shore  
just South of Icy Cape  
within a few miles three  
summer camps of natives with  
umiaks & conical lodges were  
seen in all about 100 people  
were seen - Before each  
camp a stout post 12 to 15 or 20  
ft. was erected from one of which  
a native waved a shirt as  
we passed while a crowd of others  
stood gesticulating about the  
base - The Capt. turned the  
Corwin in here just at noon  
wishing to land to get some magnetic  
observations but looking back  
the water was seen covered  
with foam under a rapidly  
approaching gale from the



worst and the exposed track  
precluded the idea of landing much  
to my disappointment for I had  
much desired to see these people.  
We had just started on when  
a fierce gale with a heavy  
sea struck us from the west  
and in a short time <sup>the</sup> ice <sup>pack</sup> was  
found moving in shore ahead  
of us and shutting in all  
around so there was nothing  
left but to back out for the gale  
& ice with the Blossom shoals  
in such proximity make matters  
very lively for a vessel.

These shoals are formed by the  
usual spit on the N. of Ice Cape  
being forced up into a ridge  
by the ice pack and thus taking  
a new form and dimensions  
every season.

The ice pack was visible  
a number of times in the  
afternoon or the loose ice

The sun did not set last night -  
12:00 - 2:15

one being its edge -

We had a very heavy sea all  
the PM. tossing the vessel  
about as she worked back down  
the coast -

7 July 22 - Off Ice Cape  
Woke this morning to find  
that we were standing back  
toward Ice Cape though the  
Coast line was obscured  
all day by haze or fog.

The wind died slowly out &  
the sea decreased all day.  
All the latter part of AM  
~~we approached~~ most of Afternoon  
it was <sup>densely</sup> foggy with fine rain at  
intervals - And at intervals the  
rest of AM & PM fog & mist were  
common - In the Afternoon several  
walrus were seen - a sign of  
our proximity to ice in addition to  
the fog and later we ran in among  
numerous very small loose  
fragments or play over 2 to 3 ft



across and scattered sparsely about and at last the ice becoming more plentiful she was headed back down the coast again in the evening.

The clouds opened at daylight and the sun was seen above the horizon by the officer on the watch.

I asked the meaning of several words the following of which are those. Shaman an alk' kōk - Chief = ū miē' lik Nū' wūk = the spit at Point Barrow The village at Pt. Barrow = Kāg mā lit. Upon the back of the hands on a pair of mittens worn by a young man were attached the spread feet one on each hand of a Mormon Can. Coonculata. The weaver said they were the feet of one of these birds which had alighted thus on his hands & left it fast to bring him good

fortune in salmon fishing. The other natives pointed him out as being a Shaman.

23<sup>d</sup>

In the morning the weather appeared a little more favorable and the wind being from the E. & NE the vessel was turned up the coast again and stood along close in shore until a little after 11 am when we were just off Ice Cape when the fog broke up & lifted and the sun came out brightly and anchoring close to the Cape a party went ashore to get the position with magnetic variation & dip. I went along to see what would turn up in my line. We landed on the long low sandy stretch of beach which 1/4 mile wide or less separates the sea from the long narrow lagoon which



makes along the coast here.  
We found several native  
camp sites which they had  
occupied a week or so  
ago. Around rock were  
scattered pieces of decaying  
blubber in profusion with  
bones and pieces of fur of  
dogs & foxes showing unmistakably  
that these animals had served  
as food probably earlier in the  
season before the ice left the  
shore here. I obtained few  
ethnological specimens and then  
turning along the beach saw  
a few walrus just floated  
ashore dead - also the skeleton  
of a right whale upon which  
the natives had been at work.  
When we first landed I shot  
a solitary *Tringa fairdiei*  
and during the walk saw  
a number of *Phalaropus fulicarius*  
which with several ducks

Countings made up <sup>all</sup> the ~~whole~~  
of the birds seen on shore though  
Kingbirds were numerous &  
in large flocks on the lagoon  
as they have been all along the  
coast from Cape Point Hope  
from Cape Lisburne thus far.  
*Stercorarius pomatorhinus* has  
been quite common with a few  
*S. parasiticus*. *Plume archia*  
*Larus glaucus*, *L. kofoidi* and  
*Urolda glacialis* with a few  
*Colymbus archaeus* made up  
the list of birds seen here.  
The country here is barren  
sand & gravel upon which  
a sparse growth of carices &  
a few other grasses with only  
a half dozen flowering plants  
completes the flora of this  
desolate spot. How the country  
is farther back it is hard to say.  
At noon we were on board &  
stood up the coast meeting the



ice pack about 20 miles  
North of the Cape the ice  
was very light now here rising  
into high ridges & the loose  
drift into which we passed a  
few miles being very trifling.  
The bluish curved around  
from the shore ahead aback  
to near the Ice Cape & the  
vessel was turned about &  
headed back. In the eve. we  
sighted & spoke the barque "Northern  
Light" whaler - which we had  
seen also when taking  
observations at the Cape.

This vessel reports having on  
north along the shore with several  
other ships up to the N. of Pt. Belcher  
and the pack was unbroken  
from the shore but a least  
opening off shore the bark  
"Daniel Webster" stood to the  
N.W. into it & soon after the  
ice shutting in along shore

forced the vessels to hurry down  
the coast until they were  
below Icey Cape - Since this  
time the "Webster" entered the  
lead (about the 10th or 11th dusk)  
nothing has been seen or heard  
& the Capt. of the "N. Light" says  
there is little chance for her  
to ever return.

~~Leaving the~~ Soon after  
we came up to the "Schr.  
Handy" which we found along  
some loose drift ice with  
a dory & 3 men down killing  
walrus - We came up just  
as the midnight sun was sweeping  
about a degree above the horizon  
& making a long golden path  
of quivering light along the gently  
heaving surface of the ice dotted  
water - in the mid ground the  
walrus in "pods" upon the heaver  
ice cakes could be heard uttering  
their hoarse notes in a loud hoarse



July 24<sup>th</sup> see Belon

thumping sound which broke  
stomach upon the still air  
with at short intervals the  
sharp crack of the rifle as  
it killed the stupid animals.  
There were hundreds of these  
walrus but the Capt. & the  
Schr. said the ice was so thin  
that the blood of the animals  
when shot almost invariably  
soaked up the ice cakes so to  
let the slain animals lie  
in or lost so that he was  
having very poor success  
walrusing though there  
were plenty of the animals  
standing on slightly we left  
the ice behind <sup>24<sup>th</sup></sup> & ran in  
to the South of Ice Cap where  
we came to anchor just off  
a native camp of about  
100 people who brought off  
but little beside winter  
deer skins & the skins.

of mountain sheep - also  
marmot skins (Pamys & the  
Whistler) They asked for  
Whiskey, Hawry, Rifles & cartridges.  
I secured some photos of the  
people but during the day  
(we anchored about midday) several  
whaler viz. Barques "Sappho";  
"Sea Breeze" & "Northern Lights"  
The Schr. "Handy" and in afternoon  
the Steam Whaler "Belvidere"  
were all anchored within  
a couple to four miles & the  
latter close by so the Capt.  
came on board and among  
other things told us that the ice  
was remarkably light this season.  
He has been within 40 miles of  
Herald Is. nearly a month ago  
and thinks we will be able  
to penetrate to Wrangell Rd.  
He was within 80 or 100 mi of here  
the year Capt. Long was there &  
says its coast is indented by deep



Days like the fiords along  
the coast in the vicinity of  
Elson Bay—

He describes the movements of  
the ice from Pt. Belcher to  
Pt. Barrow as very erratic  
that it may be for 2 or 3  
yrs. in succession that a  
vessel cannot get out or in there.  
The only safe wintering place  
for a vessel is in Elson Bay  
at Pt. Barrow.

A. Fredricks

Lt. McQuesten

Arthur Harper

Chas. Petersen

Francis Macri

Monte L...



For I can see the movement of  
the ice from the Belcher to  
the ... as very erratic

1890

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Francis Tharner



